

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NEA-10 SCCT-01

SAB-01 AF-08 /080 W

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O R 121719Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8403

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 4829

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: WFLR UNSC UG IS

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON ENTEBBE EVENTS

REF: STATE 171506

1. I HAVE JUST CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD TO DISCUSS US/UK DRAFT RESOLUTION PER INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL. BOYD HAS BEEN FOLLOWING SITUATION CLOSELY AND WAS THOROUGHLY INFORMED ON ISSUE OBVIATING NEED FOR ELABORATE BACKGROUNDING.

2. HE TOLD ME PANAMA HAS BEEN UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM NON-ALIGNED FORCES AT UN. NONETHELESS PANAMA HAS DECIDED THAT IT WILL NOT REPEAT NOT ACT AS COSPONSOR OF NONALIGNED RESOLUTION. MOREOVER IT WILL ABSTAIN FROM VOTE ON THAT RESOLUTION CRITICAL OF ISRAEL. THIS HAS NOT BEEN EASY DECISION, HE POINTED OUT, ESPECIALLY AS SRI LANKA CONFERENCE NEARS AT WHICH PANAMA WILL BE SEEKING UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR ITS STAND ON CANAL ISSUE.

3. AT SAME TIME, TO PRESERVE EVEN-HANDED POSTURE IN CURRENT DEBATE, PANAMA WILL ALSO ABSTAIN ON US/UK RESOLUTION WHICH IT REGARDS AS LESS THAN BALANCED IN NOT CRITICIZING ISRAEL FOR VIOLATION OF UGANDA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. IT WAS CLEAR TO
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ME FROM SOME RELATED REMARKS MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER THAT PANAMA

DOES NOT WANT TO BE ON RECORD AS IN ANY WAY FAVORING MILITARY INCURSION INTO TERRITORY OF ANOTHER STATE BECAUSE THIS COUNTRY FEARS THAT IT MIGHT BE SUBJECTED TO SAME TREATMENT AT SOME FUTURE DATE IF OUR CURRENT TREATY EFFORTS FAIL AND VIOLENCE OR TERRORISM ERUPTS AS CONSEQUENCE.

4. BOYD'S DESCRIPTION OF PANAMA POSITION CONFIRMS EMBASSY'S EARLIER PREDICTION THAT THIS COUNTRY WOULD TAKE EVEN-HANDED STAND FAVORING NEITHER PARTY IN CURRENT DISPUTE.

JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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